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ADDRESSES: HISTORICAL, POLITICAL, SOCIOLOGICAL. By Frederick R. Coudert. New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons. 1905. pp. xviii, 452.

The opinions of a distinguished and successful lawyer will seldom be found profitless reading. A proof of this is to be found in the newly published volume of addresses delivered by the late Frederick R. Coudert, formerly among the leaders of the New York bar. The variety of the subjects comprehended testifies to the many interests in which the speaker found time to indulge, despite the demands of his profession.

The first section of the book in question, amounting to about one third its length, is that of most interest to lawyers. This is devoted to four addresses upon topics of International Law: I, International Arbitration; II, The Anglo-American Arbitration Treaty; III, The Rights of Ships; IV, International Law. Upon these subjects Mr. Coudert was entitled to speak with authority. In the first address he discusses the development of civilization and national economy, and their influence towards arbitration, and insists upon the folly of wasting life, and inviting bankruptcy, merely because of loss of temper or injured pride. He commends the course of the United States in this respect, more particularly in its relationship with Great Britain, furnishing a number of examples where arbitration proved a more happy expedient than the dictates of anger. In the second essay he takes up the Arbitration Treaty between the United States and Great Britain, then pending (March, 1897) in the Senate, answering Lord Russell's question "Who will compel the contracting nations to arbitrate?", and refuting the objection that the Monroe Doctrine might be made a matter for arbitration. Address No. III contains a short discussion of the basis of International Law, and a consideration of the question as to what law obtains upon a vessel of one country in the port of another. *Barrundia's Case* is taken as an example of the situation which may arise, and receives especial attention. The conclusions to which Mr. Coudert comes, with regard to the more vexing points, are not too clear, but the general law is made plain, and the opinions of several distinguished statesmen and judges discussed. The fourth address is upon the nature of International Law, and taken in conjunction with the opening paragraphs of the third furnishes a sound and sensible statement of what that law really is, a statement which should prove helpful to those who, coming new to the subject, have yet to realize that the word "law," as applied to international regulations, is a misnomer. The speaker has no sympathy with fanciful theories based upon "Natural Law," "Primitive Law," or "Divine Law," but says at once that International Law, so called, consists of "certain rules of self-denial, forbearance, and courtesy, which have been found conducive to the mutual interest of men." He defines it as "the result of an implied agreement among civilized nations to abide by those practices which have proved most conducive to the promotion of profitable intercourse in peace, and to the mitigation of suffering and hardship in war."

The remaining two thirds of the book are given to the discussion of subjects so general as to make a brief summary impossible. They contain, in part, addresses on Columbus, Kossuth, Andrew Jackson, Charles O'Connor, and Montesquieu; addresses on moral and social questions; an interesting article on "The Bar of New York from 1792-1892," and another on "Young Men in Politics." An address entitled "The Lawyer's Responsibilities" gives Mr. Coudert's views upon codification. This portion of the book is only occasionally of primary interest to lawyers, but the general reader should find little that is uninteresting.

In criticising the volume as a whole it must in fairness be said that the subjects lose much from having been presented in comparatively short addresses. Time and occasion did not permit the speaker to go so fully into them as we should often like, and much that was calculated to keep the audience good tempered could be dispensed with by the reader, if only he could have in its place an equal amount of matter written to the point. This, however, is but another way of saying that the questions which Mr. Coudert has raised are of such interest that we can but wish he had had time to give us more than a single volume.

A. H.